

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Results of turkey hunting season: Spring 2007

Spring turkey hunters harvested a total of 46 turkeys on Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) during the Missouri Spring Turkey Seasons in 2007. One youth hunter on FLW bagged a bird during the Youth Season March 31-1 April and FLW hunters harvested 45 turkeys during the Regular Season which ran from 16 April – 6 May, 2007. The FLW Sportsmen's Center sold 290 turkey hunting stamps this spring. Of the harvested birds, 38 were adult gobblers and eight were one-year olds or jakes. Five hunters successfully bagged the limit of two turkeys on FLW during the three week Regular Season.

Since 2005, deer and turkeys harvested within Missouri for all deer and turkey hunting seasons are recorded in the telecheck system operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) where hunters call in, or record through the internet, each of their deer and turkey harvests. MDC added an additional recording for FLW in September, 2006 as part of the telecheck system to gain reliable numbers for deer and turkey harvested on FLW.

The 2007 statewide total for the Youth and Regular Seasons combined was 48,476 which is the lowest harvest since 1998. The Pulaski County total during the Regular Season was 454 birds (348 adult gobblers, 103 jakes, and 3 bearded hens). This year's lower harvest numbers were attributed to erratic spring weather and lower overall nesting success for the past several years due to cold and wet weather during nesting time.

On FLW busy military training schedules made Hunting Area availability limited again this spring but availability was similar to the past several years. An average of 22% of the total area on FLW available for hunting was open during weekdays and 58% was open during the three weekends of the Regular Season this year. Only two areas totaling 2074 acres (4.3%) were closed for the entire Regular Season. Daily check-in to Hunting Areas is a requirement on FLW but some hunters this year made use of the FLW Hunting and Fishing website for daily check-in to obtain access passes though Range Control.

Though the FLW spring turkey harvest was at a modest level this year, the installation supports ideal habitat and a healthy turkey population. With expectations of reasonable weather during the nesting season we have the potential for high recruitment of young birds and the prospects of higher harvest levels during upcoming hunting seasons.

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